

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

By Edward C. Wayne

Greeks Take Second Inning of War; 2,000 Killed in Rumanian Earthquake; Rumors of Changes in Next Cabinet; British Bombers Raid Italian Fleet

(EDITOR'S NOTE—When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of the news analyst and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)



WOODBRIDGE, N. J.—This scene of desolation met the eye after a terrifying blast leveled the United Railway and Signal Co., here, killing nine persons and injuring 33. Though the plant made torpedo signals for railroads, it was said to be working on a device of "great importance" to the army and navy. (For news of other powder plant blasts see "DEFENSE: Supplies.")

FOUR HORSEMEN:

War

Greece is connected to Fascist-held Albania by three highways running through deep mountain passes. Down these three highways marched Mussolini's blackshirt legions in the first week of his war with Greece. Back up the highways hurried what was left of the divisions in the second week.

The Greeks, outnumbered two to one, reported they had pushed the invaders back on the northern and central front. On the southern front they also claimed victory, said a complete Italian division was surrounded and wiped out.

England, still pounded by German warplanes, saw the Tower of London, ancient prison where famous prisoners were confined in the Elizabethan era, smashed by a bomb. One night the raiding planes had an unaccustomed hum. The English guessed they were Italians, a guess confirmed when one was shot down. The Italian onslaught brought demands in London for a raid on Rome, treasured architectural city until now protected by agreement. Said George Bernard Shaw, "There is no reason why Rome should not have it. If only people were not killed and we could select the places to be bombed, I would welcome an attack on London. They are knocking down a good many things we should have knocked down ourselves long ago."

Germany was being torn by tons of explosives also. When Adolf Hitler visited the Munich beerhall, Nazi shrine, R.A.F. fliers sought out the place and dropped explosives. Hitler cancelled the broadcast of his annual speech. The raiders found the spot just an hour after the address and sent high German officials scurrying to shelters.

Likewise when Soviet Premier Molotov and 32 trade and commercial advisers came to Berlin, the route over which their private train passed was bombed. The visiting diplomats escaped injury. The following day Molotov and Hitler held a three-hour conference during which it is believed the course of the two nations in relation to the Balkan countries was decided.

Death

The Pale Horseman rode over Europe in more than war. An earthquake shook Rumania killing an estimated 2,000 and causing millions of dollars of property damage. Destroyed also were some of the prolific Rumanian oil wells which have been supplying Adolf Hitler with the gasoline needed for his war machine.

Famine

Unable to ship food through the British blockade, the American Red Cross prepared to close all its stations in occupied and unoccupied France. All Europe was under strict rationing.

Pestilence

How long England holds out may depend indirectly more than directly on Nazi bombs. Millions of people were crowded into air raid shelters night after night, in foul air and weakened by loss of sleep. It is feared this may bring epidemics as soon as spring arrives.

On the continent, other millions, weakened by lack of proper nutrition, also are susceptible to disease.

WAR AT SEA:

British Losses

Britain was not hiding the fact that continued loss of freighter vessels was seriously interfering with the conduct of the overseas supplies. Neutral estimates have put the losses at 3,400,000 tons out of an available 30,000,000. The rate of sinkings has gone up sharply since June. Prime Minister Churchill told commons the losses were more serious than air raids, and said the British must expect even heavier attacks next spring. He sounded out Ireland on the use of bases there but Eire President De Valera rejected the bid.

One day Berlin announced that a convoy of 20 British ships had been attacked and sunk. It was believed, a sea raider of the pocket battleship type was at large in the north Atlantic.

But three days later, London reports of the attack on the same convoy varied greatly from this Berlin dispatch.

Said the British: A German pocket battleship overtook a British convoy of 38 ships and a dramatic and heroic episode of the sea was then enacted.

The British armed merchant cruiser, Jervis Bay, steamed directly at the more heavily gunned and armored German ship and engaged in combat. Though outclassed, the gallant crew of the Jervis Bay continued shelling their enemy until at least 29 of the other ships of the convoy had made their escape under smoke screens. In the end the Jervis Bay was lost and Captain Fogarty Fegen, wounded in the battle, went down with his ship.

Italian Losses

Reports from London also told of a smashing bombing attack upon Italy's navy, anchored in the Mediterranean port of Taranto. British planes operating from an aircraft carrier were reported to have put out of action two battleships, two cruisers and two auxiliary craft and severely damaged a third battleship. Aircraft were used in the attack, according to London, because the harbor is too heavily fortified for surface craft to approach it. While the Italians described these reports as "fantastic," if they are true, it means that English domination of the Mediterranean is assured for some time to come. The vessels sunk or damaged represent about one-half of Italy's full fighting strength of larger vessels.

POST ELECTION:

The Aftermath

Rumors of changes in the cabinet were given scant attention by President Roosevelt, although there are excellent indications some will be made when the new administration officially starts January 20. Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes was the first to submit his resignation. He acted the day after election. There was no indication the resignation would be accepted, it merely was the same routine Mr. Ickes followed four years ago "to give the President a free hand."

War Secretary Henry L. Stimson is mentioned among those who may leave. New York's Mayor LaGuardia was mentioned as a possible successor. The "Little Flower" knows the army, was raised on an army post.

Refugee



NEW YORK.—Mme. Annette Clemenceau, daughter-in-law of Georges Clemenceau, "The Tiger" of France in World War days, is photographed on her arrival in New York aboard the S. S. Exeter. The Exeter brought many American and European refugees from the war zone and the ship's officers told of two shots fired across her stern by a British patrol boat while the vessel was one hour out of Lisbon, Portugal.

CONGRESS:

No Business

Congress continues the fiction of being in session, although virtually all but a few members left the city. Every other day officials of both houses appear, open the session, hear the official prayer, permit speeches to be inserted in the Record and then recess within a few minutes. There is no embarrassing roll call.

Agitation for an official adjournment is opposed by Republican leaders as well as many Democrats. They hold congress should be in the position of instant action, due to the troublesome foreign situation.

One bill being worked out in the meantime is the Ramspeck measure for extension of the merit system to cover some 150,000 more government workers. The bill has been passed by both houses and is being delayed because the house won't accept changes made in conference. Final acceptance would make the Roosevelt administration the record-breaker for civil service extension.

Debt

Meanwhile Treasury Secretary Morgenthau warned the ceiling on the federal debt must be raised soon, due to heavy defense spending. A formal treasury request for new taxes and a higher debt limit—probably \$80,000,000,000—is not expected until next January however. The present congress has voted almost \$17,000,000,000 for defense. Morgenthau said the treasury has no idea of asking congress to pass a retroactive tax on government securities.

NEW STATE:

Hawaii Votes

By a vote of two to one-Hawaiian citizens expressed a desire for statehood. The vote was merely a plebiscite, an indication of how the people of the 40 islands feel toward the question.

Agitation in the islands to become the forty-ninth state goes back beyond the time when the area was annexed to the United States. An element in the island then sought to make the annexation dependent on statehood. But congress merely granted the new land territorial rights.

The territorial legislature now is expected to petition congress again. If the petition is granted, the legislature must draft a proposed constitution which also must be approved by congress. A congressional resolution is the final step in the admission procedure.

DEFENSE:

Supplies

To equip the men who will operate U. S. tanks, trucks and planes, the army quartermaster depot at Philadelphia is working overtime. In one week the depot accepted bids on 900,000 bath towels, 15,000 pairs of gaudy, 200,000 field hats, 10,000 pounds of twine, 20,000,000 yards of khaki cloth, 850,000 roll-collar wool overcoats, 2,000,000 pairs of leggings, 9,000,000 pairs of socks, 2,347,000 pairs of shoes and 750 bugles.

Engines by Ford

The Ford Motor company has been awarded its first defense contract, a \$123,000,000 order for airplane engines. Last June, Henry Ford declared he would accept orders for the United States but not for Britain. The number of engines in the order was not announced.

Washington Digest

Farmers Face New Problems As Use of Machines Increases

Technological Advances Change Life on U. S. Farms; Greek Nation Completely Unified in Crisis; Government Buys More Land.

By BAUKHAGE

(Released by Western Newspaper Union.)

What's next? With the frost on the pumpkin, fodder in the shock, the world settling down to a hard winter and a long war, those of us who aren't in the first draft or just elected to office have a chance to look two ways from Christmas.

The industrial tail is about to wag the agricultural dog again the experts tell us, surplus labor is about to be syphoned off the farm which is fine for the man who has too many mouths to feed and too few acres to divide up, but not so good for the farmer who needs a few extra hands. However, if you do turn around and look back 35 years just to take your mind off present troubles you can see some interesting sights which have just been set up in sharp perspective by the inter-bureau committee of the department of agriculture.

In that short span for a man or a mule, 35 years, 10,000,000 mules and horses and thousands of men have been pushed off the farm by the machine. And, according to the prognosticators in Washington, a million and a half more mules and horses will be replaced by tractors in the next 10 years, and more than 8,000,000 acres of land now used to raise feed for work stock will be put to other uses.

Farmer Has Long Utilized Machines

We've been hearing a lot about man versus the machine, especially since the smash of 1929 that made unemployment the big issue, and again since the smash of 1940 when the Nazis with their tanks and motorized equipment went through France like a plow through loam. But the farmer had been getting machine conscious long before that. Especially since the little jack-of-all-trades tractor appeared on the field, replacing the cumbersome earlier models.

Along with the tractor came a lot more "technological developments" including not only farm machinery like the combine and the corn-picker but other scientific advances such as testing and breeding and feeding of animals and plants, soil conservation, disease prevention and other things. This technology has hurt as well as helped. Besides the thousands of men who have lost their jobs on farms as well as in factories, prices have been affected and the whole social life on the farm has changed.

"It is not that these scientific advances are to be blamed" for the difficulties which have arisen, the Washington experts say, but "the troubles, if any, arise from the inequality of adjustments and responses in agriculture and industry to such advances."

Just what the advantages and disadvantages are that lie ahead is told in detail in a 224-page book, printed by the government and called "Technology on the Farm."

One thing that interested me particularly in this interesting book, aside from its excellent and detailed information, was an editorial opinion it expressed on the way the use of machines has changed farming for a living to farming for cash. There's a difference.

Of course when you have to buy a lot of machinery you need hard money but there are disadvantages in simply raising products with the one purpose of turning them into money.

Increased Investment Reduces Security
First, it reduces security. If you raise your own food you need never starve in a panic.

Then there is health: A family with a low income and plenty of food growing right on the place is more likely to get a continuously healthful diet than one which has to buy what it eats. Raising one's own food helps divide up responsibility for the family welfare because young children and old folks can tend a garden or feed the chickens. If the eggs and vegetables and milk are purchased, the children's interests are removed from the interests of their parents and older brothers and sisters. Furthermore, a child who helps raise its own food also gets a chance to learn through doing.

Another disadvantage of farming for money only, with the greater use of machines, is that it makes it harder to own a farm. The money goes into perishable things instead of into the solid title to land. The

farmer tends to become a renter and if times are bad and a renter can't pay his rent he loses everything.

This is just one of the farm problems that the farmer can think over during the long winter evenings. Like many other good things machinery can be too much of a good thing. Alexander Pope's advice still stands:

"Be not the first by whom the new is tried
Nor yet the last to lay the old aside."

Greek People Wholly United

The war came close to me again the other day when I stepped on the soil of another belligerent. It was shortly after the Italians had crossed the border from Albania, and the Greeks had met this new invasion from the west as they met the Persian invasion from the east 450 years before.

I say I stepped on foreign soil because the embassies and legations of a foreign power are considered a part of the territory of that power no matter where they are located. The house which is a peaceful piece of Greece looks over Sheridan circle on Massachusetts avenue in the capital. It is really just a big private residence made into a legation where the minister, a cheerful little man with a long name, Cimon Diamantopoulos, lives and carries on the business of his country.

As I sat in the attractive cubby-hole that is his study, pouring over a map of the country he knows so well, I had a strange feeling. The walls with their artistic etchings of classic beauty seemed to fade away and I could see those tortuous passes of the ancient Pindus mountains. Mule-drawn artillery were struggling through the snow-drifts, the fierce Greek mountaineers with their kilts and tufted shoes on one side, the plumed Bersaglieri equally fierce Evzones mountain fighters on the other. I could see the attack in the blinding blizzard, the clash on the narrow roadway hardly wide enough for small motor lorries to pass, and then men and mules plunging down into the bottomless abyss.

The minister looked up. "Greece has never been as united as it is today," he said.

When the Persian hordes came to Marathon it was because their ruler hated the democratic spirit which he feared would spread to his own slave states.

History repeats.

Winter Comes To Washington

Washington in the autumn moves from a bright water-color to a soft-pastel, and then the foliage fades to a dark oil painting of rich browns. At last comes the steel engraving of winter.

We are now between the oil painting and the steel engraving. The burning yellow of the Ginkgoes (the maiden-hair tree, some call it) have laid their last golden carpet on the west side of Lafayette square, that historic quadrangle of green opposite the White House.

A few sturdy oaks cling to their rich, saddle-leather brown. The Ginkgoes are now bare. There are many of these attractive trees in Washington. They love cities, sharing the fumes of gas and smoke with the rest of us and flourishing on it.

I have a leaf from one planted in the city of Weimar by the poet Goethe. His city that gave birth to the ill-fated German Republic after the last war.

That tree I hope still blooms. It does unless the Nazis have uprooted its beauty because it is non-Aryan. Nature knows no politics, and laughs at our fickle changes. The Ginkgoes will bloom long after our civilization is forgotten.

History repeats, but it also reverses itself. Once the American settlers were given or could buy government land. Now Uncle Sam buys 500,000 acres from his citizens.

As part of the defense program the war department through the soil conservation service has purchased great tracts for the Seventh corps army training center in Iowa; a new aircraft firing center near Hinesville, Ga.; and lands for expansion of Fort Ethan Allen, Vermont; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; Fort Devens, Massachusetts; and Fort Bliss, Texas.



GENERAL HUGH S. JOHNSON Says.
Washington, D. C.

BURYING THE HATCHET

I have been deluged by telephone calls asking if I am ready, as I promised, to eat my column of several weeks ago saying that Dr. Gallup's poll predicting this Roosevelt landslide was grossly in error. If it will please anybody, I am willing to eat that column. It would hardly give me indigestion. It is only 600 words.

But I doubt the obligation. Dr. Gallup ate it before I did. He got so jittery that he covered himself on every side and finally said that the election was so close that a breath could swing it either way. Some breath!

I am disappointed but not downhearted. After all, it was an American election. It expresses what our people think. I believe it was wrong. But I am eager to give the result all that I have to give. So must everybody. The President didn't have a more earnest supporter in 1932 and 1936. He didn't have a more earnest opponent than in 1940. But now we are on the brink of war. He is my President and yours. He could ask me for nothing that I would not give.

For the result, we couldn't have gotten a bad man, no matter who was the final choice. I know both of these men—know them as well as you know a college chum or the man next to whom you work or the guy who drops in to sit on the cracker barrel in your store, which is a figure of speech because we no longer have cracker barrels. But the simile is still the same.

I don't call Mr. Roosevelt "Franklin" any more because, somehow, you can't do that to the President of the United States. But I think he wishes people would, and I am very sure that Mr. Willkie doesn't like to be called anything but Wendell. The point is that both of these men are plain Americans. It has never seemed to me that either of them went very far astray—except as to his advisers. Maybe that was because I wasn't one of them.

There is a classic army yarn about a young lieutenant or "shave-tail" just out of West Point. He reported to his captain at a western station in those days when captains were old, gruff and apt to be very wise. This one treated him so kindly that he became over-enthusiastic and said: "Oh, Captain. I can see that we are going to get along in complete co-operation."

"Yes," said the wrinkled old veteran, "and in this man's army you'll do all the co-operating."

A situation something like that surrounds the late opponents of President Roosevelt. I don't know one who, because of the danger in the world, isn't perfectly willing to forget the late and bitter political fight and join up with recent political adversaries in anything that will advance the interests of the country and cement its strength. But it takes at least two for any true co-operation.

The tremendous vote for Mr. Willkie measures the mass of protest and skepticism on some of Mr. Roosevelt's acts and policies. Any hostility or roughshod riding by this administration over contrary opinions might destroy the President's great opportunity to usher in the healthiest "era of good-feeling" and national unity that has occurred—at least in my lifetime.

I thought that kind of era would come in 1937, but some of Mr. Roosevelt's closest advisers and strongest henchmen were vindictive scalp hunters. They said they had a mandate and started out to keelhaul and purge even their own party. It didn't work so well and maybe with this much smaller majority, there won't be so much reprisal.

Old Andy Jackson was like that. He thought he had been cheated out of one election and the assaults on him had been very hateful and highly personal. It was said that he retired to the Hermitage "after having rewarded all his friends and punished all his enemies." That may be a great personal satisfaction, but it is just what the country does not need at a time like this.

Thomas Jefferson is as great a titular deity of the Democratic party. He didn't do that. In his first inaugural, he even offended his own party by telling the people that with the election over, they were all Democrats and Republicans—or the equivalent labels of that day—Republicans and Federalists.

Abraham Lincoln didn't do it either. He appointed to his cabinet some of the strongest personal opponents in his own newly formed and hodge-podge party.

SPEAKING OF SPORTS

By ROBERT McSHANE

Released by Western Newspaper Union

AN AMAZING young fighter lost an equally amazing bout recently in New York's far-famed Madison Square Garden.

The fighter was Steve Belloise, who dropped a 15-round match to Ken Overlin, New York-recognized king of the middleweight division.

Belloise, a 21-year-old resident of the Bronx, had only 33 fights behind him when he stepped into the ring with the champ. Outwitted by five pounds, the Bronx contender clearly was the underdog. He employs a wide-open stance which veterans decried as risky. His opponent was a tricky ex-sailor who trounced the globe for years before he reached the top.

Oddly against long-shot Belloise were heavy. But before the evening was over the gamblers of Madison Square Garden saw visions of bankruptcy court. The fight started on an even keel with Belloise taking the first round by felling away at Ken. In the second, Overlin got his bearings and started shooting left jabs to Steve's face. Belloise took the next two and Overlin came back to win the fifth.

The Big Chance

The sixth round really got underway when Steve hammered a terrific right to Overlin's head. The navy man was stunned. Then Belloise followed with a whirlwind of punches that felled the champ. As soon as he was up Belloise belted him into the ropes, almost out of the ring, with a left. He was given no chance.

That was midway in the round. Steve kept on top of Overlin and hammered him with rights and lefts to the head. At least 40 blows must



KEN OVERLIN

have landed on Overlin in the round. But Belloise couldn't come through with the finishing touch.

Then came the seventh. Overlin's legs seemed to have regained their spring. Belloise seemed punched out. In his anxiety to finish his stricken opponent he had shot his belt. There is no question but that lack of experience cost the young Italian the championship crown.

The succeeding rounds averted even the old timers. Overlin, after taking brutal punishment in the sixth round, went on to win the next six in a row. It was in this stretch that he saved the New York version of his title. Belloise still was throwing leather, right up to the final bell, but he was facing a more elusive target, and his sixth round opportunity didn't return.

Unpopular Decision

Overlin was given the decision, though it was far from popular. Belloise was the top man in the fight. He inflicted considerably more damage than he received. On the basis of who actually beat whom, Steve was the winner.

However, that makes no difference in the record book. According to commission rules the verdict was correct because Overlin won a majority of rounds. That's the way the commission instructs its referees to judge fights.

Even in questionable defeat Steve didn't draw all the sympathy. There was another angle. No champion ever made a more gallant comeback or a more courageous last-ditch stand than did Overlin. It was fitting and proper that he be rewarded. Then, too, Belloise did himself proud in going the route. He's young, and there's going to be a next time for him. A little more experience and he can't miss.

Belloise can take heart from the knowledge that neither of Overlin's predecessors grew stale in possession of the title. Indeed, both Belloise in the championship line created by the State Athletic Commission—Frank Apostoli and Cefarino Garcia—lost their crowns in their first defenses. Overlin outboxed Garcia in 15 rounds last May and Belloise earned a 15-round decision from the Filipinos in September.